

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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P R 291119Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2464

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

S E C R E T THE HAGUE 5222

EXDIS

E. 9. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, XF, NL

SUBJ: US-DUTCH OIL COOPERATION

1. MFA DIRGEN VAN LYNDEN CALLED IN CHARGE NOV 28 FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON OIL SITUATION AS SEQUEL TO HIS EARLIER MEETING WITH ECON AND POLITICAL COUNSELORS (HAGUE 5119). ITALIANER, DIRGEN FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION, AND EMBASSY ECON COUNSELOR WERE ALSO PRESENT.

2. VAN LYNDEN STARTED OFF BY EXPRESSING ONCE AGAIN THE NETHERLANDS' DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE US ATTITUDE TOWARD THE DUTCH OIL PROBLEM AS DEFINED BY SECDEF SCHLESINGER DURING HIS VISIT HERE AND BY SECRETARY IN HIS NOV 21 STATEMENT. HE ANTICIPATED THAT AMBASSADOR VAN LYNDEN WOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO CONVEY THESE SENTIMENTS TO THE DEPT ON BEHALF OF FONMIN VAN DER STOEL. VAN LYNDEN WAS, HOWEVER, CONCERNED BY
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GROWING EVIDENCE THAT DUTCH SUPPLY SITUATION MIGHT BECOME "AWKWARD" BY END JAN. IN THIS CONNECTION HE REFERRED TO CONVERSATION OF PRECEDING EVENING BETWEEN BLODGETT AND ITALIANER (HAGUE 5206). VAN LYNDEN FELT AND THE CHARGE AGREED THAT THE

TIME HAS COME TO EXPLORE THE MODALITIES OF POSSIBLE US SUPPORT TO HOLLAND. TO THAT END HE PROPOSED TO SEND SOME TECHNICAL EXPERTS TO WASHINGTON EITHER IN EARLY DECEMBER OR EARLY JAN.

3. VAN LYNDEN NOTED THAT THE SITUATION HAS NOW BEEN FURTHER EXACERBATED BY REPORTS FROM THE ARAB SUMMIT IN ALGIERS THAT THE OIL PRODUCERS WILL CONTINUE TO ISOLATE NETHS FROM EC PARTNERS BY A SELECTIVE BOYCOTT. IN RESPONSE TO THIS DEVELOPMENT FONMIN HAS ORDERED DUTCH AMBASSADORS IN EC AND ARAB CAPITALS TO EXPRESS "GRAVE CONCERN" TO HOST GOVERNMENTS.

4. VAN LYNDEN EMPHASIZED THAT GON WILL NOT "GO DOWN THE SLIPPERY SLOPE OF A NEW CONCESSION TO THE ARABS EVERY WEEK." HE REVEALED, HOWEVER, THAT AT SOME POINT DURING THE FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE NOW IN PROGRESS IN THE DUTCH PARLIAMENT VAN DER STOEL WILL MAKE ONE FURTHER POINT ON THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION BY ACKNOWLEDGING THAT PALESTINIAN PEOPLES' REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD HAVE A SAY REGARDING THEIR FUTURE AT SOME STAGE IN THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. VAN LYNDEN MADE IT CLEAR THAT THIS FORMULATION FALLS WELL SHORT OF PROPOSING THAT THE PALESTINIANS SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. HARKING BACK TO THE SECRETARY'S POINT ABOUT THE SELF-DEFEATING NATURE OF "ISOLATED ACTIONS" IN HIS NOV 21 STATEMENT, VAN LYNDEN EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE US WOULD NOT SEE THIS SLIGHT NUANCE IN THE DUTCH POSITION IN THAT LIGHT AND WOULD NOT FIND IT INCONSISTENT WITH THE US POSITION ON THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION.

5. THE CHARGE RESPONDED THAT THE USG HAS CLEARLY REACHED A DECISION IN PRINCIPLE THAT IT WILL NOT LEAVE THE DUTCH TO STAND ALONE IN THE PRESENT BOYCOTT SITUATION. HE REFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT'S PRESS BRIEFING OF NOV 27 IN WHICH OUR DETERMINATION ON THIS POINT WAS REITERATED AND INDEED REINFORCED BY A STATEMENT THAT WE EXPECTED THAT JOINT US-DUTCH DISCUSSIONS WOULD SOON BE HELD ON THIS QUESTION. THE CHARGE SAID THAT HE WOULD SOLICIT THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS AS TO WHETHER THE
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SCHEDULED VISIT OF MINECON DIRGEN WANSINK TO US IN EARLY DEC WOULD PROVIDE A SUITABLE OCCASION FOR INITIATING THIS DIALOGUE. WITH REGARD TO THE NEW DUTCH POSITION ON THE PALESTINIANS THE CHARGE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT IT WILL CUT NO ICE WHATSOEVER WITH ARABS.

6. VAN LYNDEN COMMENTED THAT WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN FEW PUBLIC STATEMENTS FROM THE OTHER EC GOVERNMENTS OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE NETHS ON THE BOYCOTT QUESTION, THERE IS A "SILENT UNDERSTANDING" (SOLIDARITE EN FAIT) THAT THE MEMBER GOVERNMENTS WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH OIL COMPANY EFFORTS TO SUPPLY ALL REGULAR CUSTOMERS, INCLUDING THOSE IN THE NETHS, ON A PARI PASSU BASIS. HE IMPLIED THAT THE DUTCH HAVE NOT PUSHED

HARDER FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL SUPPORT WITHIN THE EC BECAUSE THEY HOPED, AND STILL HOPE, THAT THE COMPANIES WILL SOMEHOW KEEP THE OIL MOVING INTO ROTTERDAM DESPITE OAEPEC THREATS OF SANCTIONS AGAINST THE INTERMEDIATE COUNTRIES.

7. VAN LYNDEN REFERRED TO AN MFA STATEMENT OF NOV 27 REITERATING ONCE AGAIN THE READINESS OF THE GON TO RECEIVE ARAB MINISTERS YAMANI AND ABDESSALEM IN THE HAGUE. HE SAID THAT IN THE VERY LIKELY EVENT THAT THEY REFUSE TO COME TO THE NETHS THE MFA IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER ARRANGING SOME KIND OF A MEETING ELSEWHERE. HOWEVER, THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS CATEGORICALLY RULED OUT GOING TO SUCH A MEETING HIMSELF.

8. VAN LYNDEN CLOSED THIS PART OF THE DISCUSSION BY REITERATING THE GRATITUDE OF THE GON TO THE US FOR ITS READINESS TO SUPPORT THE DUTCH AT A TIME WHEN IT FACES A 17 PERCENT SHORTFALL IN ITS OWN PETROLEUM AVAILABILITIES. VAN LYNDEN THEN MOVED TO A DISCUSSION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING BOTH EUROPEAN AND ATLANTIC UNITY IN THE FACE OF THESE DIVISIVE TACTICS. THIS WILL BE REPORTED IN A SEPTTEL.

9. STATE TEL 234043 WAS RECEIVED NOV 29, MORNING AFTER CONVERSATION SUMMARIZED ABOVE. WE HAVE HAD A PRELIMINARY CONTACT WITH VAN LYNDEN ABOUT IT, AND WILL BE REPORTING RESULTS LATER IN THE DAY.
TANGUY

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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